

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 164

Introduced by Assembly Member Villines

May 17, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 164—Relative to the Deputy Sheriff Joel B. Wahlenmaier Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 164, as introduced, Villines. Deputy Sheriff Joel B. Wahlenmaier Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 168 in Fresno County as the Deputy Sheriff Joel B. Wahlenmaier Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering those costs, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Joel B. Wahlenmaier of the Fresno
2 County Sheriff's Office was killed on February 25, 2010, while
3 in performance of his duties to the citizens he was sworn to protect;
4 and
5 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Wahlenmaier was born in
6 Bakersfield and raised in Fresno, attending local schools and
7 Reedley College. Upon joining the Fresno County Sheriff's Office
8 in 1998, Deputy Sheriff Wahlenmaier worked in the Patrol Division
9 and as a detective assigned to the Robbery/Property Crimes and
10 Homicide units. He was also a long-time member of the Sheriff's
11 Search & Rescue Team. Deputy Sheriff Wahlenmaier was a

1 dedicated officer who served his community and loved his
2 profession; and

3 WHEREAS, On February 25, 2010, Deputy Sheriff
4 Wahlenmaier was investigating a felony assault case in the town
5 of Minkler, California, in eastern Fresno County. While being
6 served a search warrant, the suspect ambushed the deputies with
7 gunfire. Deputy Sheriff Wahlenmaier suffered gunshot wounds
8 that resulted in his death upon his arrival at Community Regional
9 Medical Center. The subsequent investigation found that the
10 suspect, a 51-year-old Minkler man, was angry with other residents
11 of the town and had planned to ambush law enforcement officers
12 if they attempted to contact him. The suspect committed suicide
13 during the incident. Reedley Police Officer Javier Bejar was also
14 killed in the gun battle; and

15 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Wahlenmaier is survived by his
16 loving wife Beverly, and his two children, daughter Amy and son
17 Austin. He is also survived by his parents, Arthur and Patricia
18 Wahlenmaier, his sister Natalie (Wahlenmaier) Tomajan, and
19 brother Tyler Wahlenmaier; and

20 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to memorialize Deputy Sheriff
21 Wahlenmaier's sacrifice by naming a portion of State Highway
22 Route 168 in his honor, and to remember the sacrifices made by
23 California peace officers across the state who risk their lives daily
24 to protect citizens' lives; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the
27 sacrifice made by Deputy Sheriff Wahlenmaier to protect the
28 people of California and designates the portion of State Highway
29 Route 168 from approximately 0.5 miles east of Lodge Road to
30 Ockenden Ranch Road in Fresno County as the Deputy Sheriff
31 Joel B. Wahlenmaier Memorial Highway; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
33 to determine the cost of erecting the appropriate signs, consistent
34 with the signing requirements for the state highway system,
35 showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations
36 from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those signs; and
37 be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
3 author for appropriate distribution.

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